Modern Greek Studies Foundation

Μαντατοφόρος*

The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair

Center for Modern Greek Studies
San Francisco State University

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Kazantzakis Chair Benefit!

Gala Cretan Dinner Dance on November 19

On Saturday, November 19, 1988, the Modern Greek Studies Foundation will host its First Annual Dinner Dance to benefit the Kazantzakis Chair endowment—an endowment that supports the Modern Greek Studies program at San Francisco State University.

The dinner-dance is expected to be one of the year's most exciting events! A most unusual and delectable menu, prepared by Sotiris Kitrilakis of Peloponnese Foods and Angel Stoyanof of Stoyanof's restaurant in San Francisco, features authentic Cretan recipes, with some items flown in from Crete for the occasion (see menu below).

The event will take place at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Ascension Community Center in Oakland, with the Church's co-sponsorship. Festivities begin with no-host cocktails at 6 p.m. in the Richmond Room, where a Cretan cultural exhibit will be on display. The sumptuous dinner, a gastronomic adventure, is served at 7:30 p.m., followed by a demonstration of Cretan dances, with authentic, live Cretan music. Greek and American dancing for all will cap off the evening's entertainment, with two bands alternating their sets.

An auction of selected art objects, tours and cruises of Greece will also take place, and **Senator Nicholas C. Petris** promises to be spellbinding as auctioneer and toastmaster. Author **Harry Mark Petrakis**—the next visiting professor to

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"Antipolis" - Oratorio Based on Kazantzakis' Odyssey

An original musical work, **"Antipolis,"** based on the text and spirit of Kazantzakis' *The Odyssey: A Modern Sequel* (Kimon Friar's translation) is being completed by the distinguished German composer **Herbert Waltl**. Waltl has been in San Francisco since last spring as composer-in-residence at the Kazantzakis Chair. The work, an oratorio for three voices, orchestra, and synthesizer/computer, will have its premier performance in the Bay Area next year under the auspices of the Kazantzakis Chair/Center for Modern Greek Studies at S.F. State University.

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Cretan Dinner Dance, cont'd.

the Kazantzakis Chair—is scheduled as special guest and speaker.

Individuals and organizations are urged to support this benefit for Modern Greek Studies by contributing amounts of $100 or more. Contributors' names will be listed in the event's program. The Hellenic American Professional Society (S.F. Bay Area) is the first organization on the supporters' list with a contribution of $1,000 (patron).

For further information and reservations, please call: Patricia Aleck, 415-566-8544 (San Francisco); Virginia Lagiss, 415-851-0270 (Peninsula); or Cleo Lekas, 415-531-3451 (East Bay). Tickets: $75 per person—**RESERVE NOW—SEATING IS LIMITED!**

Kazantzakis Chair Benefit - Cretan Dinner Dance
November 19, 1988

MENU

Mezethakia
Assorted olives in herbed marinade
Peppers and stuffed baby eggplant
Melitzanosalata
Dolmadhakia in yogurt sauce
Kalamari in red wine sauce

Soup
Sour trahana, village style

First Course
Mizythra pie with wild greens, a favorite of Cretan shepherds

Main Course
Roast leg of baby lamb with sharp sheep's cheese and aromatic wild herb stuffing in a spicy yogurt crust

Desserts
Skaltsounakia
Anthotyro with thyme honey

Wines
Selection of retsina, red and white wines from Greece

"Antipolis," cont'd.

Conceived in 1986, "Antipolis" is the result of Waltl's interest in Kazantzakis' hero Odysseus. "I was so deeply impressed by (the book's) philosophy, poetic form and expression that I soon thought of using the work as the basis for a musical composition. 'Antipolis' will depict Odysseus' passionate spiritual quest. It has nine sections, each representing a step in Odysseus' spiritual ascent. Eventually, the oratorio will be part of a trilogy based on The Odyssey."

In an odyssey of his own, Waltl abandoned his career as a concert pianist and recording artist so he could devote his energies to composition—and this after years of study and training as a classical pianist. Over the past five years, he has made the transition from performing artist to composer; his experiments in "electroacoustic music" use electronic transformation of recorded sounds arranged in classical structures and modern compositional forms. Waltl's success in this new medium has resulted in five compositions for solo piano and synthesizer, performed in concert and broadcast in Europe and the U.S. His recordings are available on the Polyband label in Munich, Germany, and Stradivari in the U.S.

MGSF Memorial Fund

By making a contribution to the Modern Greek Studies Foundation in memory of a beloved relative or friend, you can keep this memory alive *and* give toward a good cause. You will be helping us promote modern Greek culture, language, history, literature, arts and music. In addition, when sufficient funds become available through such donations, scholarships will be established for promising Greek-American students who are pursuing their studies at U.S. universities or in Greece. For further information, contact Cleo Lekas (chair) at 4241 Coolidge Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602; telephone (415) 531-3451.

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Editors: Katharine Fong, Thanasis Maskaleris.
Consultant: James Uomini.
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Kazantzakis and *The Last Temptation of Christ*

I never followed Christ's bloody journey to Golgotha with such terror, I never relived his Life and Passion with such intensity, such understanding and love, as during the days and nights when I wrote *The Last Temptation of Christ*. While setting down this confession of the anguish and the great hope of mankind I was so moved that my eyes filled with tears. I had never felt the blood of Christ fall drop by drop into my heart with so much sweetness, so much pain.

In order to mount to the Cross, the summit of sacrifice, and to God, the summit of immateriality, Christ passed through all the stages which the man who struggles passes through. That is why his suffering is so familiar to us; that is why we share it, and why his final victory seems to us so much our own future victory. That part of Christ's nature which was profoundly human helps us to understand him and love him and to pursue his Passion as though it were our own. If he had not within him this warm human element, he would never be able to touch our hearts with such assurance and tenderness; he would not be able to become a model for our lives. We struggle, we see him struggle also, and we find strength. We see that we are not alone in the world: he is fighting at our side.

Every moment of Christ's life is a conflict and a victory. He conquered the invincible enchantment of simple human pleasures; he conquered temptations, continually transubstantiated flesh into spirit, and ascended. Reaching the summit of Golgotha, he mounted the Cross.

* * * * *

This book was written because I wanted to offer a supreme model to the man who struggles; I wanted to show him that he must not fear pain, temptation or death—because all three can be conquered, all three have already been conquered. Christ suffered pain, and since then pain has been sanctified. Temptation fought until the very last moment to lead him astray, and Temptation was defeated.

Christ died on the Cross, and at that instant death was vanquished forever.

This book is not a biography; it is the confession of every man who struggles. In publishing it I have fulfilled my duty, the duty of a person who struggled much, was much embittered in his life,

and had many hopes. I am certain that every free man who reads this book, so filled as it is with love, will more than ever before, better than ever before, love

Christ.

Nikos Kazantzakis, Prologue, *The Last Temptation of Christ*

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His (Kazantzakis') own conflicts enabled him to depict with great penetration Jesus' agony in choosing between love and the ax, between household joys and the loneliness and exile of the martyr, between liberation of the body alone and liberation of both body and soul. Kazantzakis tried to draw Christ in terms meaningful to himself and thus, since his own conflicts were those of every sensitive man faced with the chaos of our times, in terms which could be understood in the twentieth century: he wished to make Jesus a figure for a new age, while still retaining everything in the Christ-legend which speaks to the conditions of all men of all ages. The measure with which the reader of this book feels (perhaps for the first time) the full poignancy of the Passion will be the measure of the author's success.

Peter Bien, translator, in the postscript to his English translation of *The Last Temptation of Christ*

Enrollment Increases in Modern Greek Classes at SFSU

The Fall semester enrollment in modern Greek language classes, offered through the Center for Modern Greek Studies, is up. In both the beginning and intermediate classes the number of students attending has increased considerably over recent semesters. The courses are taught by Mrs. Effie Kalafatis.

The Center is planning to offer Greek II (second semester) and Greek IV (advanced Modern Greek) during the Spring 1989 term.

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Support the Goals of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation

Since 1981 the **Modern Greek Studies Foundation** has been actively working to provide support for the academic and cultural programs of the **Center for Modern Greek Studies** by establishing an endowed **Chair in Modern Greek Literature, History and Culture** at San Francisco State University. Great progress has been made. Courses are offered regularly in modern Greek language and literature; a course in modern Greek history is given periodically; lectures and cultural events are planned on a continuing basis. In 1983 the **Nikos Kazantzakis Chair** was inaugurated. During the spring semester of 1986, Greek American poet and translator Kimon Friar became the first distinguished visiting professor to the Chair, delivering a series of lectures and teaching courses on modern Greek poetry and on Kazantzakis. The distinguished Greek American writer Harry Mark Petrakis will be the next visiting professor to the Kazantzakis Chair.

The Modern Greek Studies program is already beginning to have a significant impact on our cultural life in Northern California. But we still have much to do. We have raised just under $300,000 of the $500,000 necessary to maintain the program at its optimum level. This is due largely to the generosity of one major donor, and the support of other private donors and Greek-American organizations. Until we have raised the rest of the required endowment funds, however, the Center will not be able to fully develop its academic curriculum, sponsor other visiting scholars and artists, nor present cultural programs and activities on the University campus and in the community-at-large. Also, much remains to be done in collecting archive materials to record the history of the Greek immigrants in California, and in developing a richer collection of library resources in support of instruction and research at the Center.

We are appealing to you because we believe you have an interest in Greek culture and are committed to the fostering of Hellenic traditions in our society. Your help is essential in realizing this goal of fully endowing the Chair in Modern Greek Studies as soon as possible. Your contribution is tax deductible in accordance with present tax laws. Those interested in establishing special memorial or other scholarships are encouraged to contact the Foundation or the Center.

Sincerely,
Senator Nicholas C. Petris, President,
Modern Greek Studies Foundation

Join us today - your support is greatly appreciated!

☐ I would like more information about the Modern Greek Studies Foundation and the Center for Modern Greek Studies. Please put me on your mailing list.

☐ Yes--I want to help: enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of $_____

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P.O. Box 22243, San Francisco, CA 94122. THANK YOU!